

FORM PTO-1090 (REV. 9-2001)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 7991-000018	
<b>TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES          DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)          CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371</b>				U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5) <b>10/009556</b>	
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/JP00/01740		INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 22 March 2000 (22/03/00)		PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED 22 March 2000 (22/03/00)	
TITLE OF INVENTION Case					
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US KATASE, Horishi, MIYAJIMA, Shingo and ITO, Katsutoshi					
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:					
1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>FIRST</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>SECOND</b> or <b>SUBSEQUENT</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (21) indicated below. 4. <input type="checkbox"/> The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31). 5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) a. <input type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau). b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been communicated by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US). 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)). a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto. 8 pages b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)) a. <input type="checkbox"/> are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been communicated by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. d. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made. 8. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3)). 9. <input type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)). 10. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).					
<b>Items 11 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:</b>					
11. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. 12. <input type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included. 13. <input type="checkbox"/> A FIRST preliminary amendment. 14. <input type="checkbox"/> A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment. 15. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification. 16. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter. 17. <input type="checkbox"/> A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 - 1.825. 18. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). 19. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). 20. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information: Application Data Sheet (2 pgs), 3 Sheets of Formal Drawings (Figs. 1-5), copy of first sheet of publication of WO/01/70069 with English language translation, copy of PTO Form 1449 with copies of references cited thereon (3 JP) and Information Disclosure Statement, English language translation of International Search Report, acknowl. p.c.					

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, use 37 CFR 1.5) <b>10/009556</b>		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/JP00/01740		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 7991-000018	
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21. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted: <b>BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)):</b> Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO ..... <b>\$1040.00</b>  International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO ..... <b>\$890.00</b>  International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO ..... <b>\$740.00</b>  International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) ..... <b>\$710.00</b>  International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) ..... <b>\$100.00</b>  <b>ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =</b>				<b>CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY</b>	
				\$ 890.00	
Surcharge of <b>\$130.00</b> for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).				\$ 0.00	
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	\$	
Total claims	4 - 20 =	0	x <b>\$18.00</b>	\$ 0.00	
Independent claims	1 - 3 =	0	x <b>\$84.00</b>	\$ 0.00	
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)				+ <b>\$280.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =</b>				\$ 890.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.				\$	
<b>SUBTOTAL =</b>				\$ 890.00	
Processing fee of <b>\$130.00</b> for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).				\$ 0.00	
<b>TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =</b>				\$ 890.00	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). <b>\$40.00</b> per property +				\$ 0.00	
<b>TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =</b>				\$ 890.00	
				Amount to be refunded:	\$
				charged:	\$

a. ☒ A check in the amount of \$ 890.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed.

b. ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. \_\_\_\_\_ in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

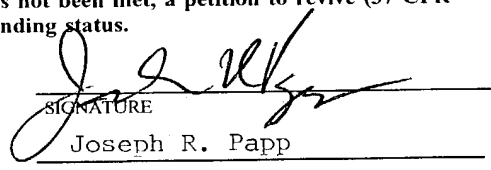
c. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

d. ☐ Fees are to be charged to a credit card. **WARNING:** Information on this form may become public. **Credit card information should not be included on this form.** Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

**NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137 (a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.**

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:  
 JOSEPH R. PAPP  
 Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C.  
 P.O. Box 828  
 Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303  
 U.S.A.

  
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 Joseph R. Papp  
 NAME  
 20115  
 REGISTRATION NUMBER  
 Dated: November 13 2001

107009556  
JC14 Rec'd PCT/PTO 13 NOV 2001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Express Mail No.: EL741088108US

Date of Deposit: November<sup>13</sup>, 2001

Application No.:

Filing Date:

Applicant: Hiroshi Katase et al

Group Art Unit:

Examiner:

Title: CASE

Attorney Docket: 7991-000018

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Box PCT  
Assistant Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**EXPRESS MAIL TRANSMITTAL**

The following papers are being deposited with the United States Postal Service Express Mail Post Office To Addressee and addressed for receipt by the United States Patent and Trademark Office:

1. Transmittal letter to the U.S. Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) Concerning a Filing Under 35 U.S.C. 371;
2. English language copy of International Application as filed;
3. Information Disclosure Statement; Form 1449 plus 3 Japanese references;
4. 3 sheets formal drawings (Figs. 1-5),
5. Eng. translation of first sheets of publication of WO/01/70069;
6. English language translation of International Search Report,
7. Check for \$890.00 and Express Mailing Certificate.
8. Acknowledgement postcard.

HARNES, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.  
P.O. Box 828  
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303  
(248) 641-1600

  
Signature

25 NOV 2002 #4

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 10/009,556  
Filing Date: November 13, 2001  
Applicant: Hiroshi Katase et al  
Group Art Unit: (Unknown)  
Examiner: (Unknown)  
Title: Case  
Attorney Docket: 7991-000018

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Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Notification of Missing Requirements Under 35 U.S.C. 371, enclosed are the following documents:

1. Combined Declaration for Patent Application and Power of Attorney
2. Assignment
3. Cover Sheet for Recordal of Document (Patent) (in duplicate)
4. Copy of Notification of Missing Requirements Under 35 U.S.C. 371 in the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) dated February 7, 2002
6. Check in the amount of \$130.00 covering the Late Filing Surcharge

11/29/2002 LLANDGRA 00000063 10009556

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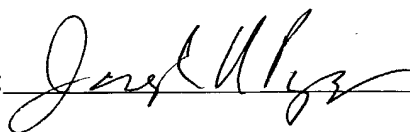
130.00 DP

7991-000018

7. Check in the amount of \$40.00 covering assignment recordal fee

Respectfully submitted,

By: \_\_\_\_\_



Joseph R. Papp, Reg. No. 20115  
HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.  
Attorneys for Applicants

Dated: November 20, 2002

P.O. Box 828  
Bloomfield Hills, Mi. 48303

248-641-1600

3/pst

JC13 Rec'd PCT/PTO 13 NOV 2001 8/4

1

## DESCRIPTION

## CASE

## TECHNICAL FIELD

This invention relates to a box-shaped case in which shells can be exchanged.

## BACKGROUND ART

5 In a box-shaped case represented by an attaché-case, shells are fixed respectively to a pair of frame members pivotally connected together at their lower portions. Such a box-shaped case, even when pressed, can not be easily crushed, and therefore  
10 documents and the like can be stored in the case in a safe and secure manner.

However, the capacity (the thickness) of the box-shaped case can not be changed, and therefore the case is sometimes too large or too small, depending on  
15 the purpose for each occasion. There is known also a type of box-shaped case having a special partition provided therein so as to enable the case to store particular articles. Such a case with the partition has a drawback that articles of other shapes and sizes  
20 can not be easily stored in the case. Therefore, several cases need to be owned, and it is rather difficult to secure a place in which these cases are stored.

# DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

It is therefore the object of this invention to provide a case in which shells can be easily exchanged.

5           The case according to the present invention has a construction in which dish-like shells are releasably fitted respectively in a pair of frame members from inner sides thereof, the frame members being pivotally connected together at their lower  
10 portions so as to be opened and closed.

          Thus, the case according to the present invention has the construction in which the shells are releasably fitted in the frame members, and therefore there are prepared several kinds of shells of different  
15 thicknesses and colors and shells each having a partition, and by exchanging these shells, there can be obtained a case suited for a purpose unique to each occasion. Therefore, it is not necessary to own several cases, and a storage space is reduced.

20           The shells, removed from the frame members, can be used also as storage trays for storing articles. Further, when the shells used as storage trays are fitted in the frame members as they are, the articles, stored in the trays (shells), can be carried in the  
25 case, without the need for repacking.

          Preferably, it is constructed so that a peripheral edge portion of the shell is turned back outwardly into a U-shape, and a groove is formed in a







Pits 20 are formed in the inner surface of the shell 11 simultaneously when molding the shell 11, the pits 20 being arranged at predetermined intervals in lengthwise and widthwise directions. A partition plate, a small article-storing member or the like is attached, utilizing these pits 20. More specifically,

projections 21 are formed on a bottom of the partition plate (or the small article-storing member) 22 as shown in Fig. 5, and these projections are fitted in the pits 20, thereby achieving the fixing. An inlet portion of each pit 20 is formed narrowly so that the projection will not be easily disengaged from the pit.

## INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

As described above, with the construction of the present invention, the shells of the case can be easily exchanged, and the case, having the thickness and color suited for the purpose for each occasion, can be used.

Although the present invention has been described with reference to its preferred embodiment, it can be appreciated that the present invention itself is not to be limited to the details thereof. It can be appreciated that the present invention include modifications, which are apparent to those versed in the art relating to the present invention, without departing from the scope and category of the present invention recited in the appended claims.

20

## CLAIMS

2. A case according to claim 1, in which a peripheral edge portion of said shell is turned back outwardly into a U-shape, and a groove, in which said turned-back portion is fitted, is formed in a peripheral portion of said frame member.

4. A case according to claim 2, in which in order that a partition can be fixed to the inner side of said shell, a plurality of pits, in which projections, formed on a bottom of said partition, can be fitted, are formed in an inner surface of said shell, and are arranged at intervals.

# ABSTRACT

The thickness of a case can be changed. Therefore, in this case, two frame members, each molded into a square shape, using a plastics material, are connected together by hinge pins 12 so as to be opened and closed, and each shell is molded into a dish-like shape, using a plastics material, and a peripheral edge portion of the shell is turned back outwardly into a U-shape. A groove is formed in a peripheral portion of the frame member, and when the shell is fitted into the frame member, the turned-back portion of the shell is snugly fitted in the groove in the frame member.

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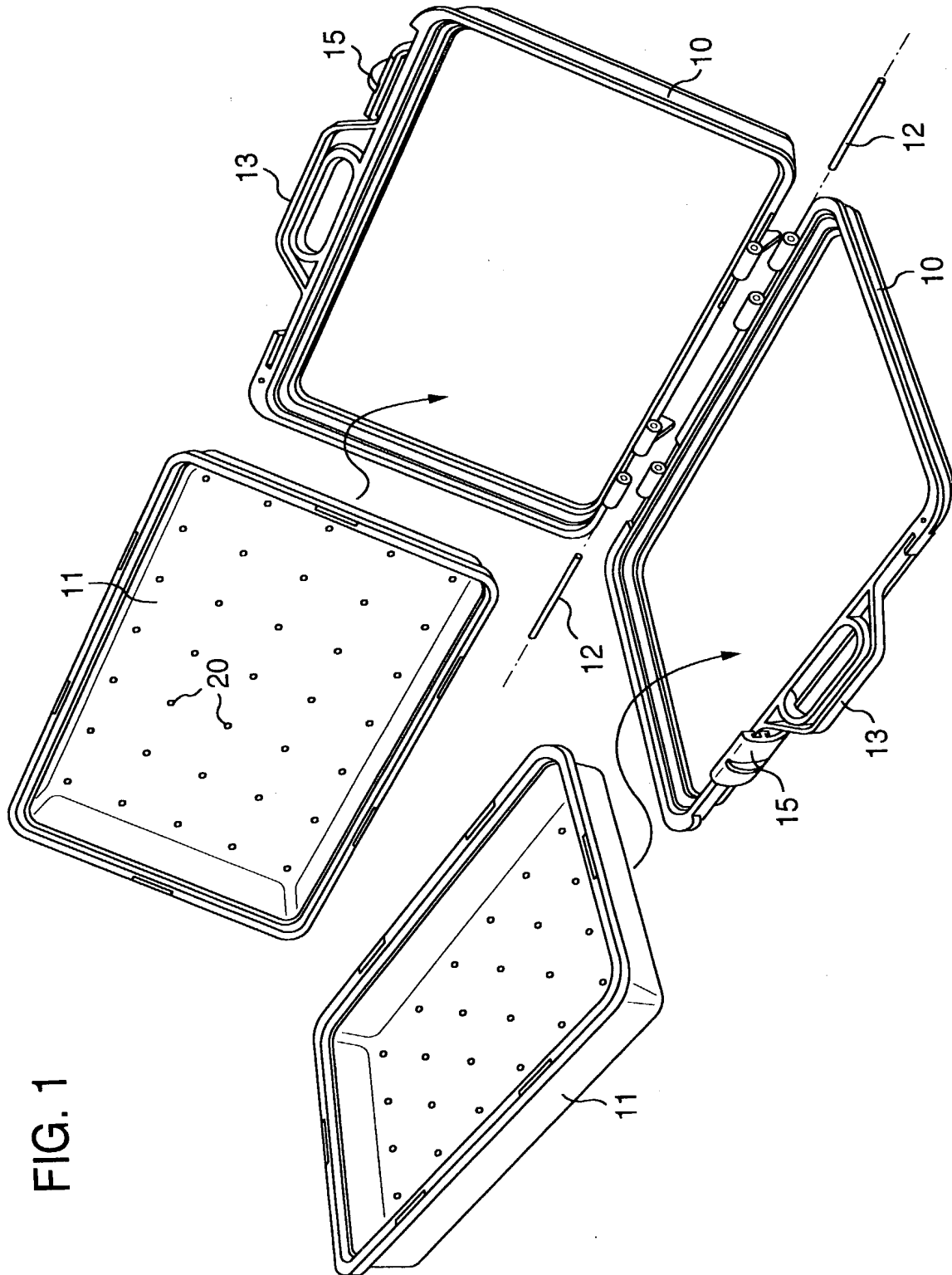


FIG. 1

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FIG. 2

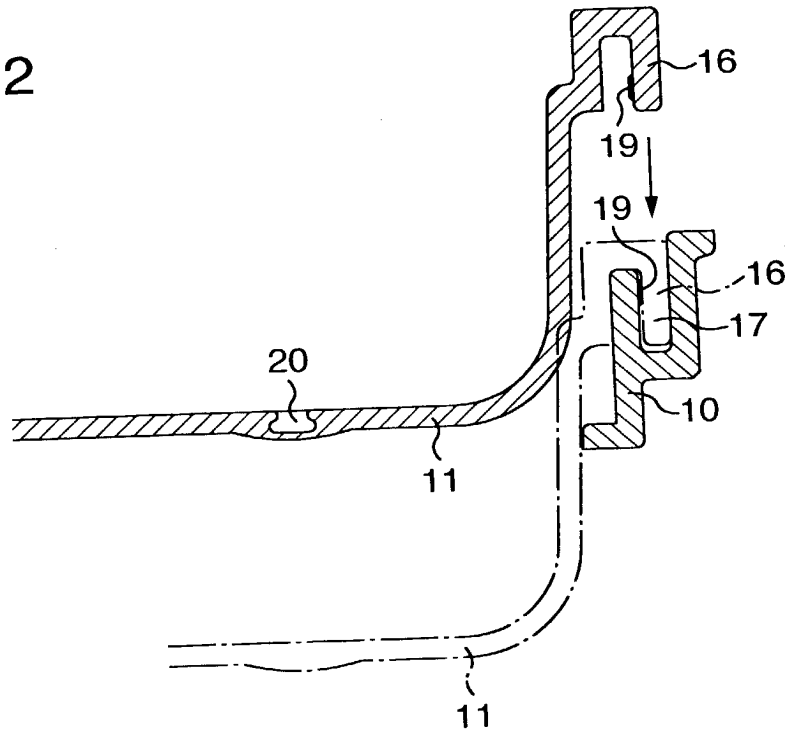
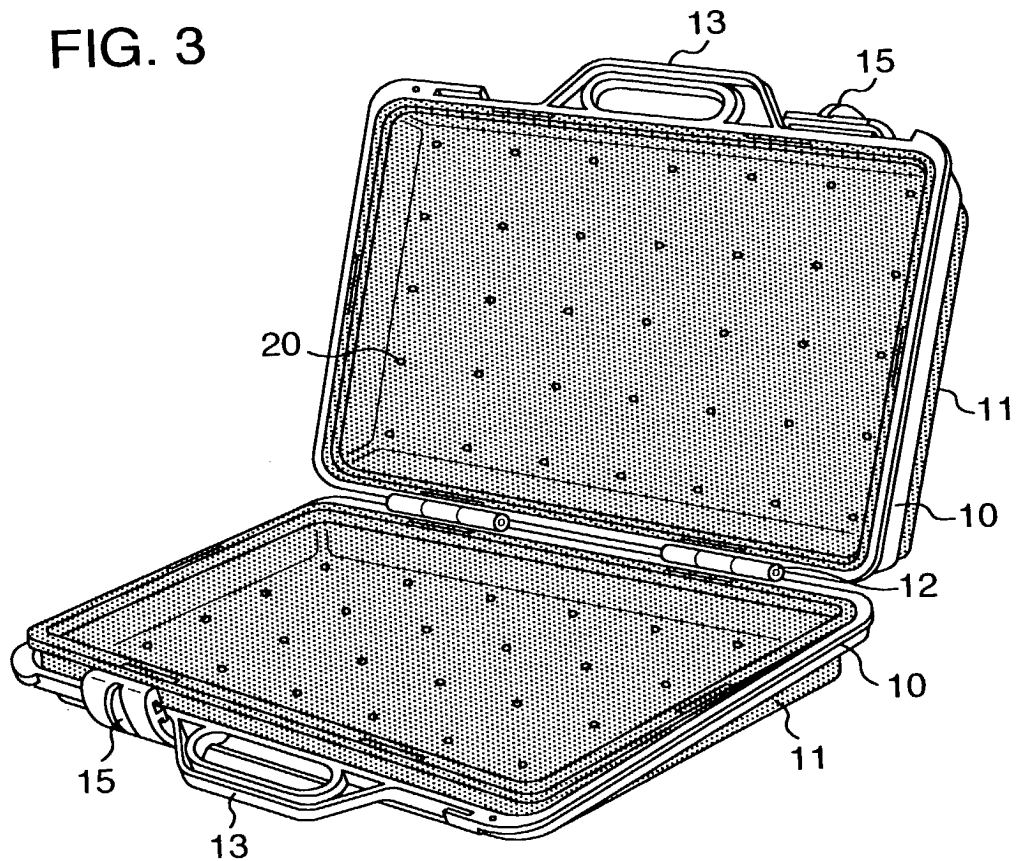


FIG. 3



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FIG. 4

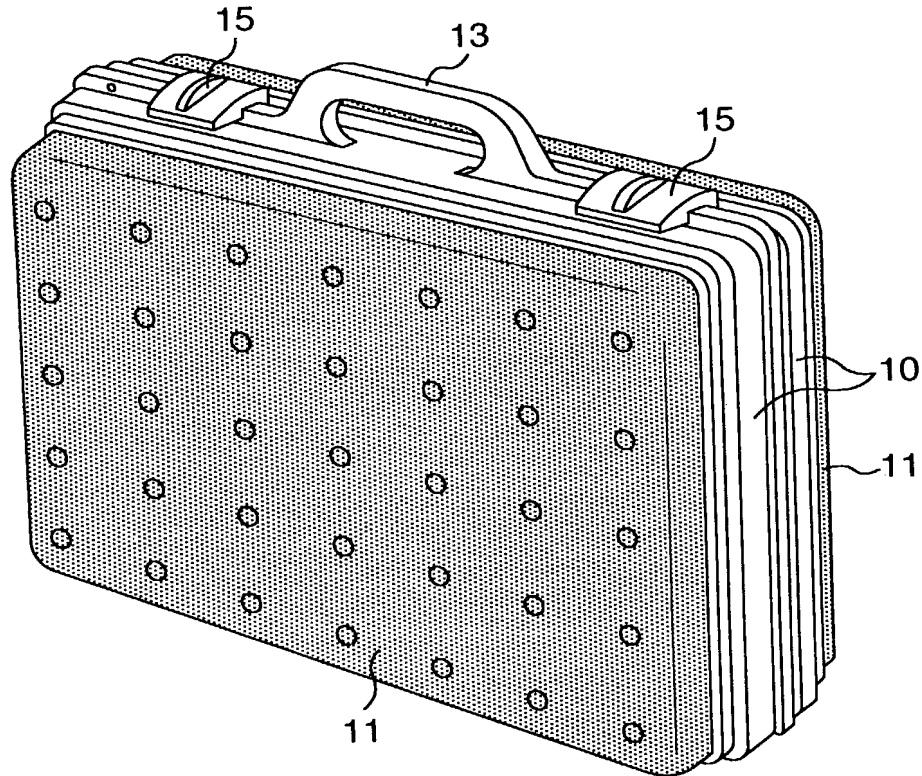
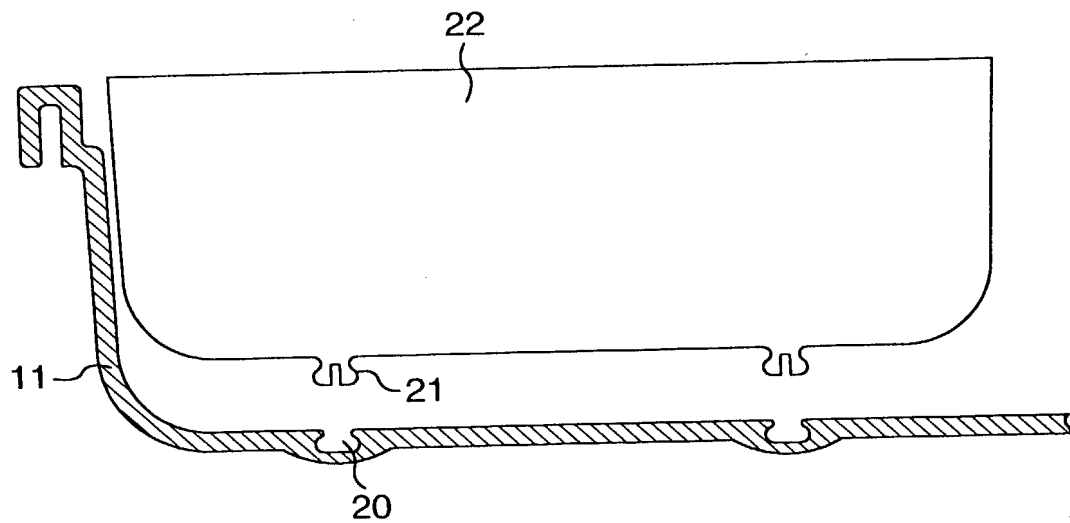


FIG. 5





ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED #4

E 5167-016

Page 1 of 2 Pages [X] Original [ ] Substitute [ ] Supplemental

Atty. Docket:

# Combined Declaration for Patent Application and Power of Attorney

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; and that I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

"CASE"

the specification of which (check one)

- [ ] is attached hereto;
- [X] was filed in the United States under 35 U.S.C. §111 on November 13, 2001, as U.S. Appln. No. 10/009,556 \*; or
- [X] was/will be filed in the U.S. under 35 U.S.C. §371 by entry into the U.S. national stage of an international (PCT) application, PCT/JP00/01740; filed March 22, 2000, entry requested on \_\_\_\_\_\*; national stage application received U.S. Appln. No. \_\_\_\_\_\*; §371/§102(e) date \_\_\_\_\_\* (\* if known)

and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable).  
(include dates of amendments under PCT Art. 19 and 34 if PCT)

I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above; and I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) all information known by me to be material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 (a)-(d) and 365 (b) of any prior foreign application(s) for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or under §365(a) of any PCT application which designated at least one country other than the U.S., listed below:

Application No.	Country	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

If I claimed foreign priority above, I hereby identify below any foreign application for patent (including an international (PCT) application designating a country other than the United States) or for an inventor's or plant breeder's certificate, having a filing date before that of the earliest application from which foreign priority is claimed (if left blank, then there are none):

Non-Priority Application No.	Country	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
<u>10-269707</u>	<u>Japan</u>	<u>September 24, 1998</u>
_____	_____	_____

10004555-1167-01 (F)

# DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §119(e) of any United States Provisional application(s) listed below:

## PRIOR PROVISIONAL APPLICATIONS

\_\_\_\_\_  
(application serial number)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Month / Day / Year filed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(application serial number)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Month / Day / Year filed)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, section 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

Application Serial No.	Filing Date	Status - patented, pending, abandoned
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

① I hereby appoint Joseph R. Papp, Reg. No. 20115, and each principal, attorney of counsel, associate and employee of Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C., who is a registered Patent Attorney, my attorney with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. I request the Patent and Trademark Office to direct all correspondence and telephone calls relative to this application to Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C., P. O. Box 828, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303 (810) 641-1600.

Full name of sole or first inventor: 1-00 HIROSH KATASE  
 Inventor's signature: H. Katase  
 Date: November 15, 2002  
 Residence: Furukawa-shi, Miyagi, Japan JPX  
 Citizenship: Japan  
 Post Office Address: 6-33-301, Inaba 3-chome, Furukawa-shi, Miyagi, Japan.

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

1000095556 11.15.02 (E5167-01(幸))

2-00  
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Second Inventor's signature: Shingo Miyajima  
Date: November 15, 2002  
Residence: Urawa-shi, Saitama, Japan JPX  
Citizenship: Japan  
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3-00  
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Third Inventor's signature: Id. Ito  
Date: November 15, 2002  
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Citizenship: Japan  
Post Office Address: 1-1-2-403, Aza Morishita, Shimoayashi, Aoba-ku, Sendai-shi, Miyagi, Japan.

Full name of fourth joint inventor, if any: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fourth Inventor's signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Post Office Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Full name of fifth joint inventor, if any: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fifth Inventor's signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Post Office Address: \_\_\_\_\_